

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, OGEN, GL

SUBJECT: DANISH ASSUMPTION OF SONDRESTROM ACC FROM USAF

1. IN 1960 USG SIGNED AN AIR SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH DANISH GOVERNMENT, REGARDING "AERONAUTICAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN GREENLAND" (TIAS 4531), INCLUDING AGREEMENT TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN SONDRESTROM, GREENLAND, AREA CONTROL CENTER (ACC), PROVIDING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES TO BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY AIR TRAFFIC WITHIN THE SONDRESTROM FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR).

2. IN 1968 USAF SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ROYAL GREENLAND TRADE DEPARTMENT DELINEATING RESPONSIBILITIES OF DANISH AND US AUTHORITIES IN REGARD TO AUTHORIZED COMMERCIAL AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT USING SONDRESTROM AB, GREENLAND, PROVIDING, IN PART, FOR USAF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES AT SONDRESTROM AB.

3. IN 1973, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE LEVEL OF MILITARY
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AIR TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY OF GREENLAND NO LONGER

WARRANTED THE O AND M EXPENSE OF OPERATING THE SONDRESTROM ACC. ACCORDINGLY, THE DANES WERE NOTIFIED THAT USAF INTENDED TO TERMINATE OPERATION OF THE ACC AS OF 30 JUNE 1975. DENMARK ACCEPTED THE PLANNED TERMINATION OF ATC SERVICES BY USAF AS BEING IN ACCORD WITH THE US/DANISH AGREEMENTS, BUT ADVISED THE ICAO COMMUNITY THAT THEY WOULD

NEED ASSISTANCE TO ASSUME THE AREA CONTROL FUNCTION BY 1975. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE DATE FOR TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS WAS AMENDED TO 31 DECEMBER 1975 TO ALLOW THE DANES TIMELY NEGOTIATION WITH ICELAND AUTHORITIES, WHO WILL ASSUME THE AREA CONTROL OPERATIONS UNTIL THE DANES ARE READY TO ASSUME THEM. THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS ENDORSED BY THE ICAO NORTH ATLANTIC TRACK SYSTEMS PLANNING GROUP (NAT/SPG), WHICH CONCERNS ITSELF WITH AIR OPERATIONS OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC. CURRENTLY, USAF IS TAKING ACTION TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF THE AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES AT THE SONDRESTROM ACC TO THE DANISH GOVERNMENT BY 31 DECEMBER 1975. DISPOSAL OF FOREIGN EXCESS PROPERTY SHOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ACT OF 1949, AS AMENDED (40 U.S.C. 472(E),(F); 511; 512), AND AIR FORCE PROCEDURES AND DOD REGULATIONS IN DEFENSE DISPOSAL MANUAL (DOD 4160.21-M) (1 JUNE 1973, AS REVISED 16 DECEMBER 1974).

4. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AMENDMENT OF 1960 AGREE-MENT AND 1968 MOU, INsofar AS THEY PERTAIN TO SONDRESTROM ACC FUNCTIONS, APPEAR APPROPRIATE. REQUEST EMBASSY RAISE THIS ISSUE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF FONMIN, SUGGESTING EXCHANGE OF NOTES EFFECTING AMENDMENT ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BELOW, AND REPORT SOONEST DANISH REACTION, COMMENTS, OR RECOMMENDED REVISIONS. ASSUMING REACTION WILL BE FAVORABLE, AUTHORITY TO CONCLUDE EXCHANGE WILL FOLLOW UPON ARRIVAL AT AGREED TEXT.

5. TEXT OF PROPOSED NOTE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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AFFAIRS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE UTILIZATION OF SONDRESTROM AIR BASE, GREENLAND, BY COMMERCIAL AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT, IN PARTICULAR THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SONDRESTROM AREA CONTROL CENTER TO SUPPORT COMMERCIAL AND CIVILIAN AVIATION UTILIZING

SONDRESTROM AIR BASE FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31, 1975, THE DATE AS OF WHICH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE INTENDS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SONDRESTROM AREA CONTROL CENTER. IN THE COURSE OF THE FOREGOING DISCUSSIONS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF SUITABLY MODIFYING THE AGREEMENT OF JULY 7, 1960 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK CONCERNING

AERONAUTICAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN GREENLAND, AND THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF NOVEMBER 8, 1968 BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND THE ROYAL GREENLAND TRADE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DANISH AND UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES IN REGARD TO AUTHORIZED COMMERCIAL AND CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT USING SONDRESTROM AIR BASE, GREENLAND.

ACCORDINGLY, THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS THE HONOR TO PROPOSE TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE FOLLOWING:

A. THAT THE APPENDIX OF THE AGREEMENT OF JULY 7, 1960 BE AMENDED BY DELETING PART 2, ATTACHMENT C THEREOF, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARAGRAPHS 1.3, 1.4 AND 1.5 THEREIN, WHICH AMENDMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON DECEMBER 31, 1975; AND

B. THAT THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF NOVEMBER 8, 1968 BE AMENDED BY DELETING PARAGRAPH A(2) OF ARTICLE III THEREOF, WHICH AMENDMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON DECEMBER 31, 1975.

IF THE FOREGOING PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT
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OF DENMARK, THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS THE FURTHER HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT THIS NOTE, TOGETHER WITH THE NOTE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN REPLY, CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK, EFFECTIVE FROM THE DATE OF REPLY.
(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.) END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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